



Wisconsin Wildlife Damage

February A Newsletter for Wildlife Damage Program Cooperators

2005

Damage Claims due March 1st!

All Wildlife Damage Claims are due March 1st. Don't forget to include a 'Harvest Objective Exemption' form if an enrollee doesn't meet their harvest objectives.

Additionally, please submit claims that were denied by the county.

Changes in WDACP staff

The Bureau of Finance is re-structuring in the wake of recent budget issues. Ron Klein will no longer provide pre-audit services for the WDACP. All reimbursement request and budget amendments should be sent to Laurie Fike. All permanent fence worksheets and reimbursements should be sent to Bryan Woodbury.

The WDACP Request For Reimbursement form and worksheet (Forms 2300-129 and 2300-130) have been revised and are now available on our forms web page for program administrators.

The Bureau of Finance will continue to audit the WDACP.

Deer donation 2004 results

The venison donation program set a record for donations in 2004. As usual everyone's hard work made the 2004 venison donation program a success. 119 processors from 52 counties participated in the program. Hunters donated 10,938 deer or approximately 305,000 lb. of ground venison. Congratulations for making 2004 the most successful year for the venison donation program.

Deer donation 2005???

We do not know whether we will be able to fund the venison donation program in 2005. Before funds can be allocated to the venison donation program, the

WDACP must guarantee that there is adequate funding available to cover county WDACP administration, abatement and claims. We should be able to make this decision in late May to early June.

Voluntary donations to venison processing

Beginning in 2002, each person purchasing a hunting license will be asked if they would like to donate \$1 or more to the venison donation program. In 2004, hunters donated \$ 19,373.85. In 2003 and 2002, hunters donated \$ 18,946.72 and \$ 18,080.16 respectively.

Harvest objective review and granting exemption guidelines

Attached is the guideline the WDACP developed to assist the County with issues dealing with the review of harvest objectives and granting exemptions.

Effective dates of the agricultural deer damage shooting permits

According to s. NR 12.16(4), EFFECTIVE DATES. Authorization to kill deer commences the date of permit receipt by the permittee and continues through the open season for the appropriate zone described ins. NR 10.01 (3)(e) and (em).

Farmers cannot withdraw from the WDACP

Once a farmer has chosen to enroll in the WDACP, they cannot withdraw from the program later in the year. Farmers enrolled in the WDACP, and farmers with deer damage shooting permits, cannot withdraw

from the program before the season—they must provide hunting access to the public during the open season. Penalties for not providing hunting access include repayment of all costs for 1) abatement and claims, 2) reviewing and approving the claim, and 3) investigating the failure to permit hunting. Stronger penalties may also apply, including repayment of two times the claim value plus up to \$1,000, revocation of the farmer's hunting privileges under Ch. 29 stats, and ineligibility for the WDACP for 10 years.

Feral Pigs in Wisconsin.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has adopted the position that feral pigs are exotic, non-native wild animals that pose significant threats to both the environment and to agricultural operations. The Department promotes aggressive removal anywhere feral pigs are reported. Feral pigs are considered unprotected wild animals with no closed season or harvest limit. Feral pigs may be removed any time throughout the year as long as those choosing to pursue them possess a valid small game license and the permission of the landowner where they intend to hunt.

Also, landowners may shoot feral pigs on their own property without a hunting license, under DNR's animal nuisance control authority. It is illegal to operate a captive feral pig hunting facility in the state of Wisconsin. It is also illegal to stock feral pigs for hunting purposes or to release hogs into the wild. Should such illegal practices be discovered in your area, contact and alert your local conservation warden immediately.

For more information on Feral Hogs in Wisconsin, check out the Departments web page at:
http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/HUNT/Pig/Pig_Hunting.htm.

The Department is interested in knowing the locations of harvested or seen feral hogs. Please contact Kyle Lafond at 608-261-7588 or by e-mail at Kyle.Lafond@dnr.state.wi.us.

New mailing address for the WDACP

The Bureau of Wildlife Management is now located on the sixth floor of the GEF II building. Therefore, our new mailing address is:

Department of Natural Resources,
 Attn: Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims
 Program, WM/6
 101 South Webster Street
 P.O. Box 7921

Madison WI 53707-7921

Contact information

Bryan Woodbury Phone: 608-266-2151
 E-mail: Bryan.Woodbury@dnr.state.wi.us
 (Program information)

Laurie Fike Phone: 608-267-7974
 E-mail: Laurie.Fike@dnr.state.wi.us
 (General information, claims & reimbursement)

WDACP website:

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/wildlife/damage>

Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program

Harvest objective review and granting exemption guidelines

Introduction

The purpose of this guideline is to assist the County with issues dealing with the review of harvest objectives and granting exemptions.

Reviewing harvest objectives and granting exemptions

1. If the claimant complied with the Harvest objectives as described in s. NR 12.16(2)(a), then the claim is forward to the Land Conservation Committee.
2. The county, its agent and the department shall consult before making a recommendation to grant an exemption to the harvest objective requirement. This group ("Party of Three") shall review the evidence **and, if there is consensus that an exemption is warranted**, shall recommend that the department grant an exemption.

Compelling Evidence [s. NR 12.16(2)(b)]

The department may grant an exemption to the harvest objective requirement if there is compelling evidence that deer were unavailable to be shot. The following criteria and procedures shall be used to determine if deer were unavailable to be shot.

- A. Accurate shooting permit participant hunting logs documenting significant hunter effort. These logs shall include participant names and phone numbers and dates participants hunted. If a significant number of hunters regularly attempted to remove deer, but were unsuccessful this information along with other supporting evidence may establish that deer were unavailable to be shot. [s. NR 12.16(2)(b)2.a.]
- B. A minimum of 5 hunter days per week for the duration of the permit valid period may be used as an indication of significant hunter effort. A minimum of 5 hunter days per week requirement means any combination of hunters hunting deer a total of 5 days under the permittee's deer damage shooting permit during each week of the valid period of the permit. One day of hunting shall be a total of at least 3 hours hunted in a day or a hunter successfully harvesting at least one deer in a day. [s. NR 12.16(2)(b)2.b.]
- C. If a permittee had difficulty getting participants, the permittee contacted the department, the county or its agent to seek assistance. [s. NR 12.16(2)(b)2.c.]
- D. Documents to support the information in the hunting log of significant hunter effort to meet the harvest objective include: written statements by these hunters with descriptions of hunting conditions; aerial photos documenting lack of deer habitat; records that show the permittee was in regular contact with county or its agent and local department staff keeping them informed of the permittee's difficulty; that the permittee implemented reasonable measures prescribed by the county, its agent or the department to improve shooting permit performance; and any other evidence deemed appropriate by the county, its agent and local department staff. [s. NR 12.16(2)(b)2.d.]

3. If there is consensus to grant an exemption to the harvest objective requirements, the “Party of Three” shall forward the claim and a ‘Harvest Objective Exemption Form’ (Form 2300-287) indicating the group’s recommendation to the LCC.
4. If there is no consensus to grant an exemption, the group may hold the claim. The “Party of Three” may request, in writing, the claimant provide further information that deer were unavailable to be shot. The group may require the claimant respond in writing no later than 14 days from the date of the letter.
5. The “Party of Three” may review the additional information for compelling evidence that deer were unavailable to be shot. The “Party of Three” will submit a ‘Harvest Objective Exemption Form’ (Form 2300-287) to the LCC indicating the group’s recommendation.
6. The LCC will approve or deny wildlife damage claims according to the criteria and conditions established in s. 29.889 Stats, and Chapter NR 12, Wis. Admin. Code. If there is a non-consensus from the “Party of Three”, then the LCC is required to deny the claim for not meeting the harvest objective requirements of s. NR 12.16(2)(a) Admin. Code.

County Appeals Process

Claimants may appeal decisions made by the County. Claimants may contact the County’s Corporation Counsel to inquire about the County’s appeal process (usually the County Board of Adjustments). The Claimant should consult their legal counsel before filing an appeal with the County.

Definition

Consensus – General or widespread agreement among all the members of a group. An opinion or position reached by a group as a whole.

Related State Statutes

29.889(6)(d)

Compliance with wildlife damage abatement measures. In order to be eligible for wildlife damage claim payments for an occurrence of wildlife damage, a person seeking wildlife damage claim payments shall have complied with any wildlife damage abatement measures to abate that wildlife damage that were recommended by the county.

Related Administrative Codes

NR 12.16(2)(a)

Harvest objective. The permittee and participants, unless granted an exemption [par. \(b\)](#) or issued a shooting permit under [s. NR 12.37 \(4\) \(a\) 5.](#), shall kill at least 80% of the number of deer authorized for harvest on the permit and shall kill at least 50% of the number of deer authorized for harvest during the first 45 days after permit issuance. If issued a shooting permit under [s. NR 12.37 \(4\) \(a\) 5.](#), the permittee shall kill at least 80% of the number of deer authorized for harvest on the permit by September 15 of the same year. The permittee is not eligible for a shooting permit the next year if the permittee fails to comply with these harvest objectives unless a shooting permit is prescribed damage abatement under [s29.889](#), Stats.

NR 12.37(4)(a)4.a.

If a claimant has been issued a deer shooting permit under [s. NR 12.16](#), the claimant has complied with the deer harvest objectives in [s. NR 12.16 \(2\)](#).

NR 12.37(4)(a)4.b.

The county may adopt an exemption recommendation resulting from procedures described in [s. NR 12.16 \(2\) \(b\) 2](#). for a permittee enrolled in the WDACP.

NR 12.16(2)(b)2.e.

The county, its agent and the department shall consult before making a recommendation to grant an exemption to the harvest objective requirement under this section. This group shall review the evidence and, if there is consensus that an exemption is warranted, shall recommend that the department grant an exemption allowing eligibility for a permit the subsequent year.